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SUBJECT Communist Propaganda Conference in North Korea

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- On 4 May Soviet, Chinese, Hungarian, Mongolian, and North Korean delegates attended a "coordinating conference for victory over the Anglo-American imperialist invasion of Korea" in the North Korean Foreign Office building at Sopo (125-44, 39-25) (ID 5629). The North Korean Ministry of Propaganda theme for the meeting was "Three nations support North Korea in the struggle for complete victory." The conference adopted no immediate program, except the establishment of a committee to investigate purported United Nations war crimes and atrocities. Several delegates harangued at American foreign policy, the Japanese peace treaty, the United States' violation of the Allied Council for Japan, and the presence of the United States fleet in the South China Sea.
- The delegates unanimously resolved to establish a "war criminal investigation committee" to collect data against the United Nations for submission to the Asian peace conference in Beijing and later to be submitted to the UN General Assembly by the Soviet representative. The delegates also resolved to establish a "POW atrocity investigation committee" to report to International Red Cross Headquarters and to the UN Assembly through the Soviet representative.
- North Korean Foreign Office officials believe the purpose of the conference was the following:

To build up a case against the documentary evidence gathered by the United Nations depicting North Korean war crimes.

To obtain more medical supplies and food from the Soviet Union and satellites.

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To advertise Stalin's offer of 50,000 tons of flour to North Korea.

To hide North Korean indecision at the P'anmunjom conference.

To support the China-sponsored Asian peace conference in Peiping.

4. The following are comments on the Sop'o conference by one North Korean official:

The North Koreans and Chinese Communists were unable to present enough material for the Communist-sponsored International Jurist Group which visited P'yongyang in March to investigate American war atrocities. The permanent (unidentified) Soviet representatives in North Korea severely reprimanded the North Korean and Chinese Communist governments for failure to present a better case for their world-wide propaganda program. The North Koreans and Chinese Communists conducted standard tours of bombed areas in P'yongyang and provided the usual propaganda pictures of women and children killed by UN air raids.

The Sop'o conference was called under USSR instruction to prepare propaganda material for Communist-sponsored peace conventions in several countries in the summer of 1952.

1. [] Comment. Beginning in March, invitations were issued for a peace conference in Peiping. A preparatory committee for the conference was scheduled to meet on 28 May.

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